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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The United States of America has always been the world leader in pushing for free trade, which is a hallmark of our capitalistic society; and

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WHEREAS, Free trade only thrives where there is a level playing field of government regulations between trading partners; and

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WHEREAS, Free trade agreements and policies of the United States with other nations have severely affected United States manufacturing industries and the workers the industries employ; and

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WHEREAS, Participation by the United States in international trade organizations may imperil the success of United States manufacturing; and

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WHEREAS, Between January 2000 and November 2004, Illinois lost approximately 143,000 manufacturing jobs; and

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WHEREAS, Manufacturing jobs in the United States have plunged from 19.3 million in 1980 to only about 14.6 million today, in large part because of these types of trade issues; and

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WHEREAS, Foreign nations, such as China, have engaged in a wide range of unfair trading practices, including the manipulation of currency, subsidization of industries, and the dumping of below-cost subsidized products into the United States market; and

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WHEREAS, United States manufacturers cannot compete with foreign companies who pay a fraction of the salaries paid to United States manufacturing employees, provide no health

1 benefits to their workers, do not have to comply with safety  
2 and environmental regulations, pay no pensions, and receive  
3 government subsidies; therefore, be it

4       RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
5 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Congress of  
6 the United States to place a moratorium on new free trade  
7 agreements, to investigate and review current free trade  
8 agreements and policies of the United States, to investigate  
9 and review participation of the United States with  
10 international trade organizations, and to ensure that the  
11 agreements, policies, and participation are in the best  
12 interests of the citizens of Illinois and the United States;  
13 and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the  
15 President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the  
16 United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the  
17 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the  
18 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and to each  
19 member of the Illinois congressional delegation.